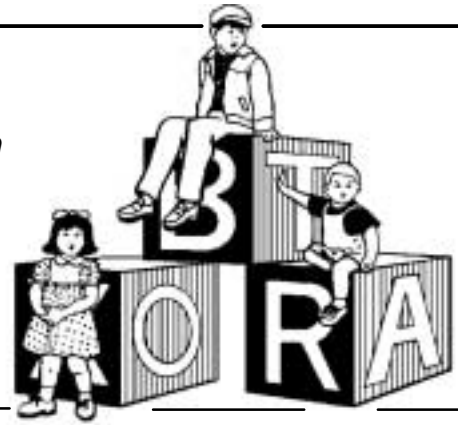


Building Blocks to Safety

A newsletter for prevention of childhood injuries.



North Dakota Department of Health

Winter 2001

Division of Maternal and Child Health

SNOWMOBILE SAFETY

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that each year about 110 people die while riding snowmobiles. It is also estimated that about 13,400 hospital emergency room-treated injuries occur each year with snowmobiles. About two-fifths or 40 percent of reported deaths resulted from colliding with trees, wires, bridges and other vehicles. Some deaths occurred when the snowmobile rolled to the side in a ditch or stream and pinned the operator under the vehicle. Deaths also have occurred when the snowmobile entered water, mostly when it was operating on ice and fell through.

CPSC recommends the following safe snowmobiling rules for recreational snowmobiling:

- Never drive your snowmobile alone or on unfamiliar ground. Have someone ride along with you, so you can help each other in case of breakdown or accident.
- Drive only on established and marked trails or in specified-use areas.
- Avoid waterways, frozen lakes and rivers. They can be fatal. It is almost impossible to judge adequate ice coverage or depth.
- Avoid driving in bad weather. Check warnings for snow, ice and wind-chill conditions before starting.
- Watch the path ahead to avoid rocks, trees, fences (particularly barbed wire), ditches and other obstacles.
- Slow down at the top of a hill, cliff or snowbank. Unforeseen hazards could be on the other side.
- Don't hurdle snowbanks. You have control only when your skis are on the ground.
- Learn the snowmobile traffic laws and regulations for the area. Many states prohibit using snowmobiles on public roads. Some states have minimum age requirements for drivers.
- Stop at roads or railroad tracks. Signal your turns to other drivers. Avoid tailgating. Control speed according to conditions.
- Use extra caution if driving at night. Unseen obstacles could be fatal. Do not drive faster than your headlights will allow you to see. Do not open new trails after dark.
- Never drink while driving your snowmobile. Drinking and driving can prove to be fatal.
- Be sure the snowmobile is properly maintained in good operating condition. Snowmobiles manufactured before 1983 may not have a "throttle interruption device" designed to shut off the snowmobile in the event the throttle sticks.
- Children younger than 12 should not operate a snowmobile. Children typically lack adequate physical size and strength, cognitive abilities, motor skills and perception to operate a motor vehicle safely. Snowmobiles are difficult to ride and require constant attention to avoid accidents.

Dollhouse Furniture Sets Recalled

CPSC and XL Machine Ltd. are recalling about 10,000 sets of dollhouse bathroom furniture. The yellow paint on the furniture contains lead, which can present a risk of lead poisoning to young children.

The Little Tree natural wood dollhouse bathroom furniture sets contain a tub, sink with mirror, toilet, shower, bench, towel rack and wooden doll. The packaging for the set reads "Little Tree," "Distributed by Target Corporation."

Target stores nationwide sold these furniture sets from August 2000 through June 2001. Consumers immediately should take the dollhouse furniture sets

away from children and return the sets to the Target store where purchased for a refund. For more information, call XL Machine Ltd. at 866.746.8097.



Butterfly Baby Toys Recalled



The CPSC and Kids II are recalling about 21,000 Carter's butterfly baby toys. The antennae on the butterfly toys contain wire that can pass through the fabric, causing cuts and scratches to babies.

The recall involves Carter's Activity Butterflies with 3-inch long bendable antennae. The body of the stuffed butterfly toy is green and purple and the wings are multi-colored. The toy makes various fun sounds when squeezed. The stuffed stars on the ends of the antennae contain a squeaker and a rattle. The toy has model number 50052 written on a small tag behind one of its wings. A date code on the opposite side of this tag ends with 00433, 00856, 01003, or 01148.

Mass merchandise and juvenile specialty stores nationwide sold these butterfly toys from February 2001 through August 2001. Consumers should take these toys away from babies immediately and return the toy to the stores where purchased or contact Kids II for free replacement butterfly toys. For more information, consumers should call Kids II at 877.325.7056.

John Deere Toolboxes Recalled

CPSC and Racing Champions Ertl, Inc. are recalling about 11,600 John Deere Kids Toolboxes. The toy's carrying handle can break, creating small parts and a sharp plastic edge that pose a choking and laceration hazard to young children.

The toolbox is a soft-shelled, plastic, green box with a yellow handle and yellow raised letters that read "John Deere." A John Deere Kids logo with a fawn inside a red oval is imprinted on the front of the toolbox. The toolbox is sold with a green and yellow plastic ratchet wrench and pliers inside.

John Deere dealers and other farm supply retail stores nationwide sold the toys from June 2001 through September 2001. Consumers should take the toys away from young children immediately and contact RCE at 866.898.4999 for instructions on returning the toys and receiving free replacement toolboxes.

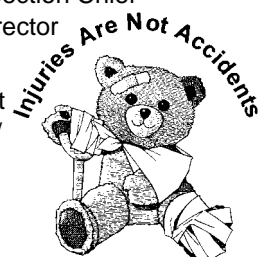
Building Blocks to Safety is published quarterly by the Injury Prevention Program, Division of Maternal and Child Health.



North Dakota Department of Health
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept 301
Bismarck, N.D. 58505-0200
1.800.472.2286

Terry Dwelle, M.D., State Health Officer
Darleen Bartz, Preventive Health Section Chief
Sandy Anseth, Division of MCH Director
Dawn Mayer, Editor

This newsletter can be accessed at
www.health.state.nd.us/ndhd/pubs/index.htm#Building_Blocks



Infant Seat Pads Recalled

CPSC and Basic Comfort Inc. are recalling 16,000 infant seat pads. The seat pad has two shoulder straps that create a v-shaped opening around the head and neck, presenting a strangulation hazard to young children.

The seat pad was sold under The Baby Sitter brand name. The infant seat pad is designed to restrain a child on a chair in a sitting position. It has a padded back and seat. The seat pad attaches to a chair by Velcro straps attached to the sides of the pad. The seat pad is a denim blue color with white restraint straps.



Department and juvenile products stores nationwide, including J.C. Penney and One Step Ahead, sold these infant seat pads from October 1998 through May 2001. Consumers should stop using the infant pads immediately and contact Basic Comfort at 800.456.8687 to receive replacements.

Skateboard Helmets Recalled

World Industries is recalling 10,000 skateboard helmets. The helmets failed impact testing required under the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Standards for bike helmets. Riders wearing the helmets are not adequately protected from falls and could suffer head injuries or death.



The recalled helmets come in black, blue and white and have the name "World Industries" printed on the chin strap, the back of the helmet and the inside padding. Retail outlets, chain stores and catalogs nationwide sold the helmets from October 2000 through May 2001.



Consumers should stop using these helmets immediately and return them to the stores where purchased for a full refund. Consumers also can call World Industries toll-free at 888.338.4562.

ATVs Recalled

Suzuki Motor Corporation and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) are recalling about 7,500 youth all-terrain vehicles (ATVs). The drive chain on these ATVs can come off the sprockets and lock the rear axle. This could cause the driver to lose control of the ATV and crash, possibly causing injury or death.

The 2002 model year Suzuki "Quadmaster 50" ATVs are being recalled. "QuadMaster 50" is written on both sides of the ATV bodywork. Suzuki dealers sold these ATVs nationwide from March 2001 through August 2001.

Consumers should stop using these ATVs immediately and contact their local Suzuki dealer to schedule an appointment for a free repair. For more information, consumers should call American Suzuki Customer Service Department at 714.572.1490.



Recalled Toys Sold at Dollar Stores

The CPSC and STK International are recalling about 110,000 children's toys. The toys can break causing small balls to be released, posing a choking hazard to young children.

The following information will help consumers identify the recalled toys:

2 PC Tambourine Set: Two tambourines consisting of a colorful plastic ring with three balls attached. Inside of the balls are beads that create a rattle sound when shaken.

Bathtime Water Wheel: A multi-colored plastic toy with a suction cup base and six small cups attached to a water wheel.

Funny Loco Wind-Up: A multi-colored train with a pig character on a sticker placed on both sides of the toy.

Pull Back Duck in Boat: A plastic blue and white

boat with colored stickers on the side, a transparent red windshield and white duck mounted on top of the boat. The toy also comes with a miniature fishing pole and a plastic lobster.

Dollar stores nationwide sold these toys from September 1999 through May 2001. Consumers should take the toys away from children immediately and return them to STK International for a full refund. Consumers should call STK International at 800.536.7855 for information about where to send the toys.



PRESORTED
STANDARD
US POSTAGE PAID
BISMARCK, ND
PERMIT # 419

Division of Maternal and Child Health
North Dakota Department of Health
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept 301
Bismarck, N.D. 58505-0200
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

